

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAIRO 11131 01 OF 02 051629Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----058504 051636Z /46

R 051533Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6901

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 CAIRO 11131

NODIS

STADIS

FROM AMBASSADOR

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: APER, EG
SUBJ: AMB'S EVALUATION OF OTHER AGENCY CAIRO PERSONNEL
LEVELS

REF STATE 154335,

1. ALWAYS WELCOME DEPT EFFORTS TO KEEP OVERSEAS STAFFING OF OTHER USG AGENCIES TO MINIMUM LEVELS ESSENTIAL TO PERFORM THEIR DUTIES. FOR PAST THREE YEARS I HAVE SOUGHT TO KEEP THIS MISSION LIMITED IN NUMBERS AND HAVE PERSONALLY VETTED EVERY NEW POSITION TO ENSURE IT WAS DEMONSTRABLY NEEDED FOR AN ESSENTIAL FUNCTION ASSOCIATED WITH THE POST'S MISSION. I CANNOT SAY THAT I HAVE BEEN ENTIRELY SUCCESSFUL, SINCE CONGRESSIONAL, OTHER USG DEPTS AND EVEN INTERNAL STATE PRESSURES HAVE ON OCCASION REQUIRED ME TO AGREE TO SOME PERSONNEL WHO REALLY NEED NOT BE RESIDENT HERE. THEIR FUNCTIONS COULD JUST AS EASILY BE PERFORMED THROUGH TDY ASSIGNMENTS. SET FORTH BELOW IS MY EVALUATION OF OTHER AGENCIES' PERSONNEL LEVELS. ALL FIGURES, EXCEPT WHERE OTHERWISE NOTED, ARE AS OF 30 JUN 77.

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2. AID: AID IS CURRENTLY THE LARGEST COMPONENT OF THIS MISSION. OUT OF A TOTAL OF 188 AMERICAN EMPLOYEES ASSIGNED TO THE OVERALL MISSION (INCLUDING NAMRU), 57 (OR 30 PERCENT) ARE AID. AID'S STAFFING PATTERN HAS STEADILY CLIMBED IN RESPONSE TO AID/WASHINGTON AND AID DIR'S APPEALS THAT I APPROVE ADDITIONAL POSITIONS IN ORDER TO EFFECTIVELY CONDUCT

OUR BILLION-DOLLAR-A YEAR AID PROGRAM. FOR FY77, AID HAS 77 PLUS 4 (TWO IIS, ONE SECRETARY AND ONE AG) AUTHORIZED FOR CAIRO, WITH 57 OF THAT NUMBER ON BOARD; FOR ALEXANDRIA, ONE POSITION IS AUTHORIZED AND INCUMBENT IS ON BOARD. FOR FY78, AID HAS ASKED FOR TOTAL OF 84 PROGRAM POSITIONS IN CAIRO PLUS TWO IIS, ONE AG AND ONE SECRETARY. I HAVE TURNED DOWN A FEW INDIVIDUAL POSITIONS AS UNNECESSARY, E. GE. RESIDENT ANTHROPOLOGIST (AUC'S ANTHROPOLOGY DEPT SHOULD BE ABLE TO PROVIDE NEEDED COUNSEL), BUT HAVE AGREED WITH THE ADDITIONAL SPECIFIC POSITIONS REQUESTED. THE SUCCESSFUL OPERATION OF OUR AID PROGRAM IS CLEARLY ESSENTIAL, NOT ONLY FOR US/EGYPTIAN RELATIONS BUT ALSO TO SATISFY CONGRESS.

3. AS REPORTED PREVIOUSLY, I DO HAVE DOUBTS ABOUT AUDITOR GENERAL'S REQUEST TO HAVE MORE THAN ONE RESIDENT AUDITOR ASSIGNED, BUT HAVE BEEN PRESSED BY DEPT AND AID ADMINISTRATOR RE NEED FOR MORE RESIDENT PERSONNEL. IN MY JUDGMENT, THE AUDITING FUNCTION, WHOSE IMPORTANCE I DO NOT IN ANY WAY UNDERRATE, COULD ADEQUATELY BE PERFORMED THROUGH TDY PERSONNEL FROM WASHINGTON OR KARACHI AS HAS BEEN THE CASE IN THE PAST. HOWEVER, THERE IS NO POINT PLAYING A DEAD HORSE. IF PRESENT AID AUDITOR PROFESSES TO DEMONSTRATE THAT HE NEEDS A SECOND RESIDENT AUDITOR, WHICH HE DOUBTLESS WILL, I WILL RELUCTANTLY HAVE TO ACCEPT THE SITUATION.

4. USIS: USIS CAIRO NOW HAS 6 AMERICAN EMPLOYEES FOR
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CAIRO AND ONE FOR ALEXANDRIA. I RECENTLY AGREED TO THE ADDITION OF THE SIXTH OFFICER. FOR A POST THE SIZE OF CAIRO, WHERE THE PUBLIC RELATIONS FUNCTION IS AN IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THE MISSION'S ACTIVITY, I BELIEVE THE NUMBER IS CORRECT. USIS WOULD LIKE TO INCREASE ITS STAFF, BUT I SEE NO PRESENT NEED TO DO SO. NOR HAVE I FAVORED THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF A BINATIONAL COMMISSION, ALTHOUGH I HAVE AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO CONSIDER THE DESIRABILITY OF A MINI-COMMISSION STAFFED BY ONE AMERICAN AND SEVERAL LOCAL EMPLOYEES TO HANDLE FULBRIGHT SCHOLARS.

5. DAO: DAO IS AUTHORIZED 5 OFFICERS, 3 ENLISTED MEN, AND 3 SECRETARIES. (IT ACTUALLY HAS ON BOARD 11 AMERICANS.) I BELIEVE THIS NUMBER IS ADEQUATE. FROM TIME TO TIME DOD HAS SUGGESTED ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL, EITHER INDEPENDENTLY OR IN CONNECTION WITH PROPOSED ASSIGNMENT OF MILITARY AIRCRAFT TO MISSION. I HAVE TURNED THESE DOWN AS UNNECESSARY. WHILE AIRCRAFT MIGHT BE CONVENIENT IN CERTAIN INSTANCES, THE FACT REMAINS THAT PRESENT EGYPTIAN REGULATIONS WOULD PERMIT IT TO FLY OVER ONLY VERY RESTRICTED AREAS OF EGYPT. NAVY WOULD LIKE TO DESIGNATE AN ASSISTANT NAVAL ATTACHE, PRIMARILY TO HANDLE SHIP VISITS, BUT AT PRESENT TIME I SEE NO NEED

FOR SUCH POSITION.

6. WE DO HAVE TWO WSLOS, WHO ARE HERE ON SIX-MONTH TDYS IN CONNECTION WITH C-130 PROGRAM. FOR THE TIME BEING THEY ARE NECESSARY, BUT I WANT TO PHASE THEM OUT AS SOON AS THEY HAVE COMPLETED THEIR WORK. SHOULD WE AT ANY TIME DEVELOP A MORE SIEABLE FMS PROGRAM FOR EGYPT, WE MAY HAVE TO TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT WHAT ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL IS NEEDED TO HANDLE SUCH A PROGRAM.

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R 051533Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6902

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 CAIRO 11131

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STADIS////////////////////

FROM AMBASSADOR

7. AGRICULTURE: WE CURRENTLY HAVE AUTHORIZED ONE AGATTACHE, PLUS ONE USDA SECRETARY, BOTH OF WHOM ARE ABOARD. I DID NOT INITIALLY FAVOR THE ASSIGNMENT OF A RESIDENT AGATTACHE, BUT USDA-INSTIGATED CONGRESSIONAL PRESSURE ON THE DEPT ULTIMATELY REQUIRED ME TO ACCEPT ONE. GIVEN THE SIZEABLE AGRICULTURAL SALES WE MAKE TO EGYPT, HE HAS BEEN VERY USEFUL. HIS WORKLOAD HAS BEEN SUCH THAT HE HAS REQUESTED APPROVAL FOR THE ASSIGNMENT OF AN ASSISTANT AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE. AGAIN, GIVEN CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN OUR AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES HERE, I HAVE RELUCTANTLY AGREED, ALTHOUGH I AM NOT CONVINCED THAT A SECOND AGATTACHE IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY.

8. DEA: LAST FALL CODEL WOLFE MADE A SPECIAL VISIT TO EGYPT TO PRESS FOR MY AGREEMENT TO THE ASSIGNMENT OF A DEA OFFICER TO CAIRO. WE FRANKLY DO NOT NEED A RESIDENT DEA OFFICER AND I SO INDICATED AT THE TIME. CODEL WOLFE AGREED THAT EGYPT IS NOT AT THE MOMENT A MAJOR NARCOTICS EXPORTER, BUT EXPRESSED

CONCERN THAT THE WAR IN LEBANON, THEN UNDER WAY, MIGHT CAUSE IT TO BECOME SO. IN CODEL'S VIEW, PLANNING SHOULD BE BEGUN AT ONCE FOR THIS CONTINGENCY AND A RESIDENT DEA OFFICER WAS
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ESSENTIAL. IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, I AGREED TO THE ASSIGNMENT OF A DEA OFFICER FOR A ONE-YEAR'S TRIAL BASIS. THAT OFFICER WILL SHORTLY ARRIVE. IF AT THE END OF THAT TIME IT HAS BEEN PROVEN THAT A RESIDENT DEA OFFICER IS ESSENTIAL, WE CAN CONTINUE THE ACTIVITY. IF NOT, AND I FRANKLY DOUBT THAT A RESIDENT DEA OFFICER WILL BE ABLE TO DO MUCH MORE THAN OUR CURRENT EMBASSY NCO, I WOULD LIKE TO TERMINATE THE ACTIVITY. WHETHER INTERESTED MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WOULD AGREE REMAINS TO BE SEEN.

9. NAMRU: NAMRU CURRENTLY HAS AN AUTHORIZED STAFF OF 29 AMERICANS AND HAS 29 ABOARD. IN ITS 25 YEARS IN EGYPT, IT HAS PERFORMED OUTSTANDINGLY IN PROMOTING MEDICAL COOPERATION. IN MY JUDGMENT, ITS PRESENT STAFFING PATTERN IS ADEQUATE FOR THE PERFORMANCE OF ITS MISSION.

10. LOC: LOC HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED ONE OFFICER TO MANAGE ITS BOOK COLLECTION AND DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM IN EGYPT. THERE IS NO PRESENT REQUIREMENT FOR ANY ADDITIONAL STAFF FOR THAT FUNCTION.

11. REGIONAL OFFICERS: I CONTINUE TO BE PRESSED BY VARIOUS USG AGENCIES TO AGREE TO THE ASSIGNMENT OF REGIONAL OFFICERS BASED IN CAIRO. I STILL OPPOSE THIS FOR THE SAME REASONS THAT I DID PREVIOUSLY: (A) THEY CONTRIBUTE ONLY marginally TO THE WORK OF THIS MISSION, YET WOULD ADD A CONSIDERABLE ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN, WHICH WOULD REQUIRE INCREASED STAFFING, (B) THEY ARE DRAIN ON SCARCE HOUSING AND OTHER RESOURCES, WHICH WE BADLY NEED FOR OUR EGYPT MISSION-ORIENTED PERSONNEL IN BADLY OVERCROWDED CAIRO.

12. HEW: I UNDERSTAND THAT HEW INTENDS SHORTLY TO PROPOSE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A RESIDENT HEW OFFICER IN CAIRO IN
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SUPPORT OF ITS PROGRAMS. THESE PROGRAMS ARE CURRENTLY BEING HANDLED BY THE POST'S SCIENE ATTACHE. I FRANKLY SEE NO NEED FOR A RESIDENT HEW OFFICER AND INTEND TO SO INDICATE WHEN A FORMAL APPROACH IS MADE ON THE SUBJECT. WE CURRENTLY HAVE ONE HEW OFFICIAL, DR HAROLD RUSSELL, HERE ON A ONE YEAR TERM AS CONSULTANT TO AN HEW-FUNDED RHEUMATIC

FEVER PROJECT. HIS YEAR WILL BE IN UAUG 77.

13. NOTE: UNTSO OFFICERS RESIDENT IN CAIRO ARE NOT INCLUDED.
NOR ARE THE TWO SFM PERSONNEL WHO MAINTAIN RESIDENCES
IN CAIRO FOR THEIR WIVES INCLUDED, SINCE THEY ARE NOT A
PART OF THE MISSION.
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Disposition Event:
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